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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 09/915,131 | 07/25/2001 | Jeff Alan Rose | 16356.640(DC-02925) | 5738 |
| 27683 | 7590 | 07/29/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP 901 MAIN STREET, SUITE 3100 DALLAS, TX 75202 | | | SHORTLEDGE, THOMAS E | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2654 | |
| DATE MAILED: 07/29/2005 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/915,131 | Applicant(s) ROSE, JEFF ALAN | |
| | Examiner Thomas E. Shortledge | Art Unit 2654 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shin et al. (2002/0062437).

As to claim 1, Shin et al. teach:

a speech synthesizer (a sound controller able to output spoken words, page 3, paragraph 36);

a computer system including a basic input output system (BIOS) configured to cause the computer system to display information and, in response to detecting the speech synthesizer, cause the computer system to provide one or more signals associated with the information to the speech synthesizer (a computer with a BIOS (page 2, paragraph 28), and with a display device, where the system outputs one or

Art Unit: 2654

more sound signals (where the sound signals can be recorded spoken words, page 3, paragraph 36), the signals being associated with the progression of the POST process (page 4, paragraphs 43 and 44). It would be inherent that the BIOS would be able to detect the speech synthesizer since the sound unit must be booted (page 3, paragraph 35) before sound is produced); and

the speech synthesizer configured to generate one or more audible outputs associated with the information in response to receiving the one or more signals (outputting sound outputs when actions have been completed, page 4, paragraphs 43 and 44).

As to claims 12 and 21, Shin et al. teach:

displaying information associated with a pre-boot environment on a display associated with the computer system (a computer system with a display output and a basic input output system (BIOS) process (page 2, paragraphs 28 and 29), where it is inherent within the BIOS process data is outputted to the display output); and

in response to detecting a speech synthesizer associated with the computer system, generating one or more audible outputs associated with the information (the system outputs one or more sound signals (where the sound signals can be recorded spoken words, page 3, paragraph 36), the signals being associated with the progression of the POST process (page 4, paragraphs 43 and 44). It would be inherent that the BIOS would be able to detect the speech synthesizer since the sound unit must be booted (page 3, paragraph 35) before sound is produced).

As to claims 2, 14 and 23, Shin et al. teach the computer system includes a memory location, and wherein the bios is configured to cause the computer system to store a predefined value in the memory location in response to detecting the speech synthesizer (a setting within the BIOS, where the user is able to change the setting determining if the booting sound unit is to be turned on or off, (page 4, paragraph 48), where it would be inherent that the setting be a memory location, since the BIOS is a program for displaying the BIOS data which is stored within the computer, along with each of its settings).

As to claims 3, 15 and 24, Shin et al. teach the BIOS is configured to detect the speech synthesizer by detecting a predefined value stored within the memory location (the booting sound unit is detected by the BIOS and a setting is set to a value within the BIOS, page 4, paragraph 48).

As to claims 4, 16, and 25, Shin et al. teach the speech synthesizer is coupled to the port (a sound controller is connected to the computer, page 2, paragraph 28).

As to claims 5, 17, and 26, Shin et al. do not explicitly teach a serial port. However, computers inherently contain serial ports for connecting components, and Shin et al. teach connecting a sound controller to the computer, where it would be necessary that since computers contain serial ports made for connecting components,

and because sound controllers are components connected to computers, sound controllers would be able to be connected through serial ports).

As to claims 6, 18, and 27, Shin et al. teach the computer system includes a table that includes a plurality of string and a plurality of codes, wherein the information is associated with one or more of the plurality of strings, and wherein the signals are associated with one or more of the plurality of codes (a plurality of sounds saved in memory, where the sounds are aligned with different events within the computer (page 4, paragraphs 43, 44, and 49). It would be inherent to store the sounds in a table format since each sound is aligned with a different event, where the table would allow for greater organization of the sound data).

As to claims 7, 19 and 29, Shin et al. teach the computer system includes a speech Syntheses Interface Library table (a plurality of sounds saved in memory, where the sounds are aligned with different events within the computer (page 4, paragraphs 43, 44, and 49), the sound signals being recorded spoken words, (page 3, paragraph 36). It would be inherent to store the sounds in a table format since each sound is aligned with a different event, where the table would allow for greater organization of the sound data).

As to claim 8, Shin et al. teach a speech synthesis module configured to convert the information into the signals (a sound controller for outputting the message, where

different events within the computer can bring on different messages, (page 4, paragraphs 42 and 43).

As to claim 9, Shin et al. teach the computer system includes the speech synthesizer (a sound controller able to output the speech, page 3, paragraph 36).

As to claim 10, Shin et al. teach the computer system includes a sound card, and wherein the sound card includes the speech synthesizer (a sound controller able to output the speech, page 3, paragraph 36).

As to claim 11, Shin et al. teach the audible outputs include sounds associated with a spoken language (a speech output, page 3, paragraph 36).

As to claims 20 and 29, Shin et al. teach in response to detecting the speech synthesizer, generating the one or more audible outputs using a speech synthesis module stored on the computer system (the computer system contains a sound controller able to output the speech, page 3, paragraph 36).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas E. Shortledge whose telephone number is (571)272-7612. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (571)272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TS
06/07/2005


RICHEMOND DORVIL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER